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THE LEGAL IS THE RIGHT WAY.

It was the proper way in the police muddle to bring a test case and have an interpretation of the conflicting statutes and ordinances and settle the matter in a way that would be conclusive. This is supposed to be a civilized community, and as such subject to the laws. If laws are defective the way to do is to enforce them until they can be in a legal way repealed or amended. Unless such a suit had been resorted to the matter would have come nagging back with monotonous criminalations and re-criminalations to the end of the term of the present Council.

Apropos—on a scale not much loftier than one of Councilman Fernstrom's dissertations, the head of the Mormon church launched his coarse invectives at lawyers as a class and incidentally at the profession of the law in the Tabernacle last Saturday. As the emanation of a seer, prophet and revelator, it was unique at least. It revealed a narrowness and malice most contemptible, an ignorance most appalling and profound—an ignorance of the history of the government of the United States, its Constitution, how it was framed and how the first rough frame was given character, harmony and potency by the lawyers and judges who have been called upon to interpret its hearings and scope, and to adjust differences under it, and how, because of it, the United States in one hundred and fourteen years has advanced from nothing to the fore-front of the nations of the earth.

It was, however, but natural for the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to break out as he did. He has never been held as famous for his discretion. The star he was born under made this impossible. He grew up with the idea from the first that the president of the Mormon kingdom, earthly as well as spiritual, must be infallible, that such president has a right to do as he may please, whether following a revelation or a whim, and sincere fanatic that he is, he believes that right has descended upon him, and that no mere man-made laws ought in the least to interfere with the exercise of the heaven-descended prerogative. Hence when he stumbles upon an exact science like the law, which supplies the rules of action to govern society, he is not only amazed but incensed.

But we hope the young men who heard him will consider that he spoke in general terms; that

there are exceptions to all general rules and will keep in mind that no study, save that of mathematics and the abstract sciences, will so steady and expand the brain of a young man as a conscientious study of the law and its application to human governments; that no other study, save, perhaps, that of the engineer, so prepares a man for the carrying on of society and the control of great industries; that while sometimes the wires gets crossed on revelations, a knowledge of law is of every day use no matter what occupation a man may select or whatever industry he may pursue. Of course there are shyster lawyers, but so there are shyster doctors, merchants and even those who hold out that they have consecrated their lives to the service of the Master, every day find men in their ranks that were the Master to come, he would declare that he had never yet received an introduction to them. Such men are in all walks of life, but they are no argument against any science or any honorable calling.

President Joseph F. Smith's declaration that "we will not hurt them, * * * We will protect them," does not count. It is but a cheap method of advertising the great forbearance of the Saints. If anyone tells the truth that is a right under our laws. If anyone slanders saint or sinner there is a civilized way to deal with the offense. It would be better to make some legal tests and have the matter decided as to who are "the liars, the scoundrels and the goats in sheep's clothing."

AS THINGS ARE.

We have been asked: "Why fight an abstraction? Utah is gaining in population, the things which clash with our Government will, with increasing light, melt away."

Those are not quite the words of our inquisitor, but they convey his idea.

The answer is direct to anyone who has kept watch of things in Utah or who has learned its history, and who is familiar with foreign history. When men talk about a united rule of church and state, they forget that when any church is permitted to share in the Government of a State it is precisely as it was with the Arab who on the stormy night permitted the camel to push his head into his tent. He found the camel would accept nothing less than the whole tent and the Arab and his family had no home except under the stars. It must be so. When one man tells his followers that he is God's accredited agent on earth and they believe him, that is sufficient, for who can fight against God or what is believed to be God? Very well, where this has been tried there always follows ignorance and degradation and poverty for the masses. The more pronounced the rule the more dense the ignorance, the deeper the degradation. When unchecked it means national degeneration and increased vices.

Turkey is a fair sample, so is all Southern Europe. The men who settled Mexico, Central and South America were quite the equals in intellect and courage of the Puritans of New England, of the Cavaliers of Virginia. The cause of the change was so apparent that when the time came for the United States to frame a Constitution, among the most earnest of the members of that Constitutional Convention to utterly sever the functions and the rule of church and

state, were the Roman Catholics. The progress of our country since is perpetual evidence of the wisdom which guided the deliberations of that convention.

But, notwithstanding that, the Government of the state of Utah is absolutely subordinated to the Church as was shown by the last election, by the last Legislature, by the present City Council. Party ties count for nothing with men in office. Oaths of office count for nothing. Solemn pledges and the most binding covenants count for nothing, and any evidence of independent thought and action on the part of Mormon officeholders means that he is holding his last office in Utah. This same influence is spreading and has become so potent in adjacent states that it has made cowards of a whole row of United States Senators from surrounding states. The Church can absolutely count on the support of the Nevada, the Idaho, the Wyoming, and the Colorado Senators for each one is looking to future elections and all want to be able to negotiate in this city for the solid vote of the Mormon voters in their respective states.

Is it not time for some one to enter a protest against such a state of affairs? If the evil is not cured in this generation it will be in a future one even if it has to be through the wreck and death and waste of a mighty war.

The man who thinks that the present generation is more yielding here than the former had better look around. As we estimate the matter the present generation has quite as much fanaticism and vastly less sense than their immediate ancestors. Surely in no former year was there ever seen a legislature more anxious to obey counsel than was the last one which adjourned a few weeks ago. No Mormons in the City Council in ancient days were more servile than the Mormons in the present council. And it is but eight years since the present head of the Mormon church pledged his word and honor, and did it not, as an individual, but as an apostle and member of the First Presidency, that henceforth the men and women of his creed in Utah should be free; free to espouse whatever political principles they might please to, free to cast an untrammelled vote.

Is it worth while to still believe that there is anything like honor in an institution of that kind? We tell Gentiles that it is due to their own self-respect to dissolve anything like political relations with such a people. The superstitious fear is on the good men in the organization and they are afraid to be men. Hence when the next election draws near it will be the duty of Gentiles to nominate their own candidates and work for their election, or to hold themselves aloof and let the Saints take entire control.

It seems that Apostle Smoot was invited to attend the Americus club banquet notwithstanding his square denial of a week ago. Apostle Smoot seems to have at least one most marked qualification for an Apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

TRANS-SIBERIA.

An eastern paper gives a graphic account of the first through first-class passenger train from Port Arthur to St. Petersburg. The train left